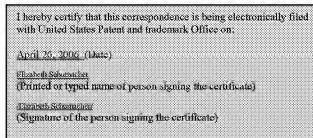


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph A. Abys, et al.
Serial No.: 09/887,827
Filed: June 22, 2001
Title: METAL ARTICLE COATED WITH TIN OR TIN ALLOY UNDER
TENSILE STRESS TO INHIBIT WHISKER GROWTH
Grp./A.U.: 2822
Examiner: Lewis, Monica

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend it as follows: